

COMMONWEALTH OF KENTUCKY
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNORPAUL E. PATTON
GOVERNOR

March 7, 2000

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Mr. John Podesta
Chief of Staff
Office of the President
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington DC 20500

Dear John:

The recent shooting in Mount Morris Township, Michigan of a first-grader by a classmate reaffirms the need to keep our children safe from the potential misuse of firearms in both schools and homes. Because of the shootings in Paducah, we in the Commonwealth have first-hand experience with such a tragedy.

For this reason, I would like to bring to your attention the work of a small technology company, MEC, based in Lexington, Kentucky. The owners of MEC, Tony Hancock and Jonathan Buckley, have created and prototyped (patent pending) an electronic safety system for firearms. The system creates a child-safe gun that can only be operated by an authorized user. When locked, the gun's slide, trigger, and hammer cannot move. Messrs. Hancock and Buckley contend that their system can be incorporated into the majority of firearms at a manufacturing cost of less than \$46 per gun.

I have enclosed a copy of a more detailed description of the Hancock/Buckley prototype for your information. Also enclosed is a short inspection report from the Kentucky State Police describing its test of a prototyped firearm.

Please do not hesitate to contact Kevin Goldsmith in my office if you have questions or need more information.

Sincerely,


Paul E. Patton

Enclosures



AN EQUAL OPPORTUNITY EMPLOYER M/F/D